



STATE OF TENNESSEE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Andrew Johnson Tower, Ninth Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0800
(615) 741-2633 (FAX) 741-5956
1-800-264-0904

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE

TCCY Conference Room, 9th Floor
Thursday, February 23, 2006
1:15 PM

Members Present

Beverly Cosley, Chairperson
Sidney Bynum
Dennis Clark
Cindy Durham
Jim Ford
Drew Johnson
Dana Lesley
Christy Little
Jerry Maness
Jim Scott
Dwight Stokes
Joetta Yarbro

Members Absent

Carlton Lewis

Staff Present

Debrah Stafford, JJ Director
Diane Baham
Michael Cash
Dannie Epstein
Ron King
Phil McKenzie
Ashok Midha
John Nixson
Vicki Taylor
Zanira Whitfield
Elaine Williams

Visitors

Richard Lindahl, Albuquerque, NM
David Schmidt, Albuquerque, NM
Elizabeth Tate, Intern

Cosley introduced two visitors from Albuquerque, New Mexico, Richard Lindahl, Juvenile Justice Specialist, and David Schmidt, Chair of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice, who will speak to the full Commission on Friday regarding the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in New Mexico.

I. Approval of October Minutes.

IT WAS MOVED (LITTLE) AND SECONDED (STOKES) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2005 MEETING OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND MINORITY ISSUES COMMITTEE. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

II. Update on DMC Task Force.

King received applause from the Committee for being invited to serve in a national leadership position with the Coalition for Juvenile Justice as a member of the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee for 2006.

King reported on the January 23, 2006, DMC meeting of the first quarter in Nashville. King stated the meeting was productive even though two speakers, Commissioner Viola Miller and Dr. Jenny Jones, were unable to attend. He added Stafford presented to the Committee in their absence regarding the Juvenile Justice Assessment Tool Committee report to the General Assembly. King stated members can receive a copy of the minutes of the meeting for a full report if they wish.

III. Update on New Local DMC Task Force (Clarksville).

King reported on the DMC meeting in Clarksville where Task Force membership includes government officials, judges, educators, and community activists. King directed members to the newspaper article in their packets regarding the Montgomery County DMC Task Force and its efforts in alternatives to detention of youthful offenders. Stafford added the committee had established a subcommittee to review data of youth in the juvenile justice system, and a representative from Austin Peay State University suggested using students to collect the data from juvenile courts, schools, etc.

IV. Approval of DMC Task Force Budget.

Stafford stated the work of the DMC Task Force is very important and monies are needed to continue its activities. She stated some Federal Formula Grant funds are set aside initially to fund DMC initiatives every year. Stafford reviewed some of the DMC budget categories. Ford asked if all the monies were controlled by TCCY. Stafford stated monies were distributed by TCCY, but expenses were not paid until they were incurred. Lesley asked what happened to residual funds. Stafford explained they were given out for programs and projects. She added sometimes residual funds are used to print the Compilation of Selected Laws or added to the DMC Task Force. Durham asked if budget categories had changed significantly from last year. Stafford stated more monies had been added to the Americorp*Vistas category, Juvenile Justice Conferences category had been decreased, Local Community DMC Task Forces 2006 category had increased, and a Printing of DMC Brochures category had been removed. Durham suggested removing financial support for the Southern Region Coalition of Juvenile Justice Conference and supporting the Coalition in general.

**IT WAS MOVED (LESLEY) AND SECONDED (FORD) TO APPROVE THE
TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH STATEWIDE**

DISPROPORTIONATE MINORITY CONFINEMENT (DMC) TASK FORCE BUDGET FOR 2006.

V. Update on Juvenile Justice Risk Assessment Tool (JJAT) Committee.

Stafford stated committee members should have received a copy of the JJAT report to the General Assembly. She stated there was good representation and input on the committee. She stated the law was included in the report stating TCCY was designated to coordinate the development of the assessment tool. Stafford explained the detention assessment tool (DAT) is a draft that the committee is still working on. She added members should have received the RFP for the DAT that was also given to juvenile court judges. Stafford suggested members encourage judges in their areas to participate to help reduce the number of juveniles in secure detention and find alternatives to secure detention in their communities.

Cosley asked judges for their input. Stokes stated some would like the idea of a good uniform tool and most judges are open to the idea. Little stated funding is a big concern. Ford asked about runaways. Little advised it is a huge problem. Stokes stated there was immediate aid and evaluation for runaways in his region. He added staff is always looking for alternatives to detention with the assistance of the family as opposed to locking up. Stokes stated his region also utilizes intensive probation and always tries to avoid incarceration. He complimented the efforts of the JJAT Committee and stated he was appreciative of their efforts to keep judges updated and informed. Maness stated his area tries to work out a plan to reunite the child with their family, but runaways are still a huge issue. Stokes stated Kid's Place in his region was an excellent alternative residential placement for non-violent offenders.

VI. Update on CJJ Conferences.

Stafford asked Clark to report on the CJJ Conference they attended in Seattle, Washington in November. Clark stated it was a great experience for him to see what other states were doing in DMC efforts. He added Oregon demonstrated how they were bringing their numbers down. He added he was elected by the Southern Region as Southern Youth Representative. Stafford added Durham, O'Neal, and King also attended the conference and she found the conference to be a worthwhile experience.

Stafford stated there was an OJJDP training conference held in January and asked staff member attendees Taylor, McKenzie, Whitfield, and King to report. McKenzie stated the speakers were interesting and the conference provided good training. He added he particularly enjoyed hearing what other states were doing and sharing ideas. Taylor stated the variety of topics was helpful and provided good information. Whitfield stated it was interesting to find out what strategies worked.

Stafford stated future conferences include the CJJ Conference in Bethesda, Maryland in May on brain development. She added TCCY staff will visit Tennessee's members of Congress, and SAG member orientation will be held. She reported there is an

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Conference in late August in Baltimore, Maryland. Ford usually attends and Taylor will be able to represent Tennessee as it will be featured this year because of the Metro Drug Commission Program in Knoxville.

VII. Update on Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO).

McKenzie reported there were a total of 64 violations for the period July 1, 2005 to January 1, 2006, and added at this time last year there were over 200 violations reported. He stated Regional Coordinators are getting reports in and monitoring is working well at this time. Cosley commended McKenzie for all the hard work involved in tracking violations.

VIII. Update on Program Monitoring.

Epstein referred members to the document "Monitoring Summary" in their packet and summarized the information. He also reviewed the document "Agency Documents Required for a TCCY Review 2005-06" in the packet. Epstein discussed the document "Time Planning for Monitoring Reviews" as he was asked at the last meeting to describe how he managed his review time. Epstein passed out some forms related to how he collects data.

IX. Other Business.

There being no further business before the committee, Cosley adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by:

Diane Baham
Administrative Secretary

Minutes approved by:

Beverly Cosley
Chairperson